Amendments to the Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for identifying asymptomatic patients who have a likelihood of benefiting from the administration of an estrogen activity modulator for risk reduction or therapeutic treatment of breast cancer, said method comprising: providing a ductal fluid sample from at least one duct of a breast of the patient; and examining the ductal fluid sample to determine the presence of precancerous or cancerous ductal epithelial cells, wherein patients determined to have the presence of either precancerous or cancerous ductal epithelial cells are considered likely to benefit from administration of an estrogen activity modulator for risk reduction or therapeutic treatment of breast cancer.

Claim 2 (original): A method as in claim 1, wherein the precancerous ductal epithelial cells comprise cells at a stage selected from the group consisting of ductal hyperplasia, atypical ductal hyperplasia, and low grade ductal carcinoma in situ (LG-DCIS).

Claim 3 (original): A method as in claim 1, wherein the cancerous ductal epithelial cells comprise cells at a stage selected from the group consisting of high grade ductal carcinoma in situ (HG-DCIS) and invasive carcinoma.

Claim 4 (canceled):

Claim 5 (original): A method as in claim 1, wherein providing the ductal fluid sample comprises receiving a sample which had been previously obtained.

Claim 6 (original): A method as in claim 1, wherein the fluid was obtained by nipple aspiration of the milk ducts or by ductal lavage of at least one breast milk duct.

Claim 7 (original): A method as in claim 6, wherein the fluid collected is from a single duct.

Claim 8 (canceled):

Claim 9 (currently amended): A method as in claim 1 ~~or 8~~ wherein examining the ductal fluid comprises detection of an estrogen receptor in the ductal epithelial cells.

Claim 10-12 (canceled):

Claim 13 (original): A method as in claim 1, wherein the asymptomatic patients comprise patients in a high risk group for breast cancer selected from the group consisting of patients with a family history of breast cancer, patients of increasing age, patients having at least one high risk parity factor, patients having high risk gene status, patients having at least one previous breast biopsy, patients having a previous diagnosis of breast cancer, and patients having any other risk factor for breast cancer.

Claim 14 (original): A method as in claim 1, wherein the asymptomatic patients comprise patients selected from the group of patients consisting of patients who are negative in a standard cancer test and patients with inconclusive or ambiguous results from a standard cancer test.

Claim 15 (original): A method as in claim 1, wherein the estrogen activity modulator comprises a class of agents selected from the group consisting of a selective estrogen receptor modulator (SERM), an estrogen antagonist, and a modulator of estrogen synthesis.

Claim 16-70 (canceled)